

Recreation Commission Minutes - FINAL
November 19, 2014

Chairman John Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Attendance:

Chairman John Lembeck – present; Commissioners: Kerry Chandler, Sharon Greener, and Robert McGinty were present, Mike Cecil arrived at 7:25pm. Commissioners Dan Bavuso and Jim Dengler were absent. Councilman Ben Day and Recreation Director Sarah Orsay were also present.

Public comment portion:

Resident Joseph Piccolo, a student at Allied Health Academy, said that he and several other students were starting a charity to collect gently used sports equipment to give to underserved local communities. He asked if the RC would support this effort and if he could put flyers up and also collection boxes the first two weeks of December. The RC was in favor and Ms. Orsay said she would confirm with Borough Administrator Tom Rogers.

Chairman's Announcements

None

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Chandler raised the motion to approve the October 15 Meeting Minutes, with a specified amendment, Ms. Greener seconded, and all were in favor.

Reports

Parks

Ms. Orsay reported that the Meadow Ridge East was closed for the season on Monday, October 27 and the worn areas were covered with sod. All fields were seeded and aerated on November 12.

The Commission discussed on-going problems with drainage at Forrestdale Field. Numerous weekend games had to be cancelled or relocated due to excessive wetness, including puddling. Mr. Lembeck asked Ms. Orsay to speak to DPW and Mr. Rogers about getting an estimate for repair to fix the problem.

Mr. Lembeck also requested Ms. Orsay set up a meeting with a playground designer for Victory Park.

Programs

RFH Flag Football – Flag football season ended on November 1. With the exception of several rainy weekends, the season went smoothly, had a higher enrollment than ever, and Mr. Bavuso and Ms. Orsay received positive feedback from coaches and parents alike.

Soccer – The regular season ended on November 1, but due to rescheduling rainouts the Tournament of Champions games vs Fair Haven went on into November. Despite the official tournament being rained out, the towns managed to collect approximately 300 units of donated cake mix and frosting, items specifically requested by Lunch Break, as part of the Tournament's "give back" mission. Other season highlights included the Town Tournament and the first ever Rumson World Cup for grades 1&2, both held on Oct 18.

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Crew – The Winter Conditioning program starts December 1 and runs 4 days a week through mid-March, including erg conditioning and experience at the CBA indoor tanks. The program is designed to accommodate 60 high school students and there are only a few spots left. Ms. Orsay expects the program to reach capacity.

The boats have been winterized and the Borough has received the new Vespoli Quad. It is anticipated that proceeds from the Rumson Boat Race will be used to purchase a Double, which will then be donated to the Borough for RFH Rowing use.

One of the Commissioners asked if there had been any parent fundraising in anticipation of the 2015 program. Mr. Bavuso and Ms. Orsay indicated that they were not aware of any activity or plans. It is anticipated that the scholastic spring program will be sponsored and run by Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School again this spring.

Basketball – Rec Basketball open registration ended on October 31 and Ms. Orsay anticipated only minimal late registrations. The program has increased significantly in size from last year (approximately 10% with 6 more teams in the Grade 3-8 program). Ms. Orsay attributes this to the positive buzz from last year's revamped program. This year Commissioner Mike Cecil organized Purple & White Day with both Coach Champeau and Coach Sourlis of the RFHRHS Boys' and Girls' basketball teams, respectively. It is a community day to involving an interactive, fun day between Rec and the High School teams and is scheduled for December 7. In addition, there will be some Saturday Open Gym times and informal scrimmages in December for Grades 3-8. The regular season runs Jan 5-Mar 7.

The Coach Safety and Team Selection Meeting was held on Nov 15 in FD Cafeteria. In addition to the Rec Director's safety & rules review, Shane Fallon shared his experience as both a professional and parent coach and George Sourlis held an experiential clinic for coaches. To maximize the likelihood of even teams a blind draft was conducted.

Travel Soccer – Mr. McGinty reported that the season was near the end and that overall it was a good season.

Travel Basketball – Mr. Cecil reported that the Fall season was underway and the Winter season had begun.

Spring Sports – Registration for all spring sports will be January 1 – 31. The Commission discussed whether they should seek out a Baseball commissioner to work with Ms. Orsay on the management and content of program, similar to some of the other sports.

Travel Sports Policies – The Commissioners continued to discuss and debate proposed guidelines for Rumson Recreation sponsored travel sports. No final decisions were made.

Special Events – Ms. Orsay, Ms. Chandler, and Ms. Greener comprise the Special Events sub-Committee and reported that the Family Halloween Parade & Party, held on Sunday, Oct 26 at 3.30pm-5.00pm, was a great success. Ms. Chandler, Mr. Day and Mr. Zach Wilson, the Summer Playground Director, were costume judges, and students from RFH and FD came in costume and volunteered leading activities and handing out goodies. Commissioner Dan Bavuso and several from the Senior Citizens Group grilled and served hotdogs and lemonade. It was a fun day all around.

Ms. Orsay announced that the Rumson Tree Lighting would take place on Sunday, December 7th at 5pm. Ms. Orsay also announced that she was asked to again help select judges of the Rumson floats at the Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade, an independently sponsored event.

Mr. Lembeck announced that the Rumson Run, also an independently sponsored event, would likely resume in 2015, tentatively in March.

Projects – Ms. Orsay reminded the Commission that the Monmouth County Open Space Committee would be announcing their awards in the end of December.

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Personnel – There were no personnel issues to discuss.

Administrative

Insurance – Ms. Orsay reported that in 2015 Rumson Recreation programs will rely on League-provided secondary insurance for Accident & Health coverage, where applicable, since there is no way to opt out and it does not make sense to pay for two forms of secondary insurance. The leagues are MOSA (travel soccer), Mid Monmouth (travel basketball), USABL (travel baseball), US Lacrosse (Girls Lax grades 3-8), Little League (Baseball and Softball grades 3-8). This results in a savings of approximately \$4000 in insurance premiums. The secondary insurance deductible varies by League.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Orsay reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Lembeck reviewed some of the larger projects that Rumson Parks & Recreation may be asked to contribute to in the coming years, including the Victory Park renovation.

Old Business

Community e-Announcements – Mr. Day set up an "Around Town" information sharing area on the Rumson Recreation web site home page for approved third party announcements.

Code of Conduct / Mission Statement – Ms. Greener and Mr. Bavuso volunteered to be on a Committee to review, and present a revised Code of Conduct and updated Mission Statement to the RC in January.

Education & Communication – The Commissioners had some further discussion of how best to communicate the RC's expectations to coaches and parents before the season and how to incorporate more coach training (e.g., child development and sport specific) for travel and recreation coaches. It was agreed that the pre-season coaches meeting for coaches was the best way to begin this process. Ms. Orsay mentioned that she would like to conduct the Safety presentation that she does for Rec coaches each season to the travel coaches each year, too.

New business

Forrestdale Gym Renovation – Rumson Recreation had been approached by the FD Administration to assist with fundraising for the Forrestdale School gym floor and bleachers. The Commissioners all agreed on the importance and necessity of this project and felt that given how much Rec and Travel use the gym at no cost that we should indeed contribute and assist with fundraising. Ms. Orsay will follow up with FD and a sub-committee to discover more specifics and next steps.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 7 PM at the Charles S Callman courtroom.

The meeting adjourned at 9.05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Orsay